# WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION International Bureau



#### INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6:
G07F 19/00, G06F 17/60,
G07F 7/10

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(43) International Publication Date: 30 September 1999 (30.09.99).

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9806843.0 24 March 1998 (24.03.98) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): KORALA ASSOCIATES LIMITED [GB/GB]; John Cotton Building, Sunnyside, Edinburgh EH7 5RA (GB).

(72) Inventor; and

(30) Priority Data:

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): KORALA, Aravinda [FR/GB]; KAL, John Cotton Building, Sunnyside, Edinburgh EH7 5RA (GB).

(74) Agent: KENNEDY & CO.; Station House, 34 St. Enoch Square, Glasgow G1 4DF (GB). (81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

#### Published

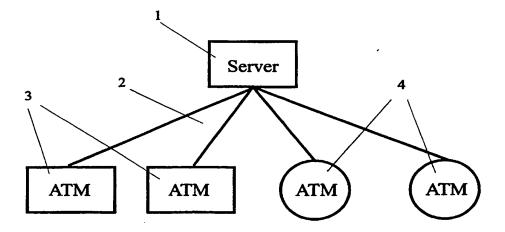
With international search report.

Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

25 November 1999 (25.11.99)

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING TRANSACTION SERVICES



#### (57) Abstract

Apparatus and method for providing transaction services, in particular a computer-based transaction machine, such as an ATM, and a method for providing transaction services using said transaction machine. One or more software applications interact with middleware software through functional interfaces that are hardware independent but provide functionality which is implemented in a manner adapted to the capabilities of the particular hardware implementation. Objects provided for standard transaction functions are independent of the interface between the user and the transaction machine, said interface being customisable. The resulting transaction machines are typically combined into networks and these networks may readily be combined to form an Extranet.

## FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

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Intern Pal Application No PCT/GB 99/00927

CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER PC 6 G07F19/00 G06F G06F17/60 G07F7/10 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 6 G07F Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Category 1,2,19, Α WO 97 45796 A (BARCELOU) 24,29, 4 December 1997 (1997-12-04) 30,47,52 page 2, line 6 - line 18 page 6, line 22 -page 7, line 6 page 7, line 24 -page 8, line 5; figures WO 97 10562 A (CYBERMARK, L.L.C.) 1,2,29, Α 20 March 1997 (1997-03-20) 30 page 6, line 2 - line 4 page 7, line 11 - line 18; figures 1,2,4 WO 97 05582 A (KEYCORP LIMITED) 1,29 13 February 1997 (1997-02-13) page 5, last paragraph -page 6, line 8
page 7, line 22 -page 9, line 9; figures 5,6,8,11 -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Х Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but "&" document member of the same patent family later than the priority date claimed Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 12/10/1999 4 October 1999 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Neville, D Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Interna al Application No PCT/GB 99/00927

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C.(Continu	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category 3	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Р,А	US 5 739 512 A (TOGNAZZINI) 14 April 1998 (1998-04-14) column 5, line 48 - line 67; figure 3	1,29
A	US 5 710 887 A (CHELLIAH ET AL.) 20 January 1998 (1998-01-20) column 8, line 51 - line 64	1,29
A	WO 97 41541 A (VERIFONE) 6 November 1997 (1997-11-06)	1,3,22, 23,29, 31,50,
	page 23, last paragraph -page 24, line 17	51,57,58
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....ormation on patent family members

Intern 18l Application No PCT/GB 99/00927

Patent document cited in search report	:	Publication date		atent family nember(s)	Publication date
WO 9745796	Α	04-12-1997	AU NZ	3283897 A 333112 A	05-01-1998 28-01-1999
WO 9710562	Α	20-03-1997	AU	7019796 A	01-04-1997
WO 9705582	A	13-02-1997	AU CA EP NZ	6606296 A 2228291 A 0842503 A 313557 A	26-02-1997 13-02-1997 20-05-1998 28-10-1998
US 5739512	Α	14-04-1998	NONE		
US 5710887	Α	20-01-1998	NONE		
WO 9741541	Α	06-11-1997	AU	2811897 A	19-11-1997

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# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

# **PCT**



# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's o	r age	nt's file reference			ation of Transmittal of International
koa.130.p	ct		FOR FURTHER ACTION	Preliminary	Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International	appli	cation No.	International filing date (day/mont	h/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)
PCT/GB9	9/00	927	24/03/1999		24/03/1998
Applicant KORALA  1. This ir and is	ASS terna	OCIATES LIMITED et	ination report has been prepare		rnational Preliminary Examining Authority
be (s These	en a ee R anne	mended and are the basule 70.16 and Section 6 exes consist of a total of	sis for this report and/or sheets 07 of the Administrative Instruct 3 sheets.	containing re	n, claims and/or drawings which have ctifications made before this Authority ne PCT).
3. This re	port	contains indications rela	ating to the following items:		
1	$\boxtimes$	Basis of the report	,		
II		Priority			Park What
[1]			ppinion with regard to novelty, in	iventive step	and industrial applicability
IV V	∐ ⊠	Lack of unity of invention  Reasoned statement u		novelty, inve	entive step or industrial applicability;
		citations and explanati	ons suporting such statement	-	
VI		Certain documents cit			
VII	×	Certain defects in the i			
VIII	X	Certain observations o	n the international application		
Date of sub	missio	on of the demand	Date o	f completion of	this report
18/10/19	99				1 2, 05. 00
	ėxam	g address of the internation ining authority:	al Author	ized officer	Company of the Compan

Bumes, K

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D-80298 Munich

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB99/00927

I.	Basis	of the	repo	rt
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1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.): Description, pages: 1-34 as originally filed Claims, No.: as originally filed 4 (part),5-23, 34-59 07/03/2000 09/03/2000 with letter of as received on 1-3,4 (part), 24-33 Drawings, sheets: as originally filed 1/2,2/2 2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: ☐ the description, pages: ☐ the claims, Nos.: sheets: ☐ the drawings,

This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been

see separate sheet

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

- V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- 1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Yes: No:

Claims 2-28,30-59

Inventive step (IS)

Yes:

Claims

No:

Claims 1-59

Claims 1,29

Industrial applicability (IA)

Yes:

Claims 1-59

No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

#### VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

## VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

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#### Section I

# Original basis of the amendments

- The amended independent method claim 1 sets out from claim 1 as filed and has been clarified on the basis of the description:
  - transaction devices are referred to throughout the specification (see e.g. the list provided on pages 18/19);
  - a single programming interface serving a specific application is disclosed at page 14, lines 24 to 27.
- 2. On the other hand, the feature that "the programming interface does not depend on the capabilities of the transaction devices" cannot be gathered as a general teaching from the application as filed. In this respect, the amendment extends the technical teaching of the application, contrary to the requirements of Article 34(2)(b) PCT.

#### Section V

Industrial applicability, novelty, and inventive step

- Industrial applicability of the claimed methods and machines is evident.
   Hence, the requirement of Article 33(4) PCT is met.
- 4. Seeing the broad interpretation given to the terms "transaction" (e.g. on page 1, lines 12 to 22) and "transaction device" (see pages 18/19), claim 1 covers a method of running a conventional computer and conventional transaction devices (e.g. peripheral input/output devices) by means of a conventional operating system (e.g. Microsoft "Windows") comprising a uniform middleware software (e.g. the system control dialogue interface) to select appropriate drivers for interaction with various application programs and transaction devices.

Hence, claim 1 does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1)(2) in conjunction with Rule 64.1 PCT, because its subject-matter is not new.

The independent machine claim 29 is based on the same concept as claim 1 and is, therefore, assessed in the same way.

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5. The dependent claims do not appear to contain any additional feature novel and non-obvious over the available prior art and/or the skilled person's average knowledge in the art. Rather, the features in the dependent claims only reflect obvious implementations of obvious functions.

#### Section VII

Certain defects in the international application

- 6. In accordance with Rule 6.2b PCT, reference signs in parentheses should have been inserted in the claims to increase their intelligibility (PCT Preliminary Examination Guidelines, Chapter III, 4.11).
- 7. To meet the requirements of Rule 5.1 (a) (ii) PCT, pertinent prior art documents should have been identified in the introductory portion of the description, and the relevant background art therein should have been briefly indicated.

#### Section VIII

Certain observations on the international application

- 8. The last two lines of the independent claims 1 and 29 ("the programming interface does not depend on the capabilities of the transaction devices") define a desideratum rather than clear technical features (method steps; data structures) allowing the object to be achieved, contrary to the requirements of Article 6 PCT (see also PCT Preliminary Examination Guidelines, chapter III, 4.7).
- 9. The introductory portion of the description should have been harmonised with the amended independent claims, Rule 5.1(a)(ii)(iii) PCT.
- 10. The general statement in the description at page 34, last paragraph is unclear, and when used to interpret the claims renders these also unclear, contrary to the requirements of Article 6 PCT.
  - Therefore, said paragraph should have been amended to read: "Further modifications and improvements may be incorporated without departing from the scope of the invention herein intended as defined by the appended claims."

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

KENNEDY CO. Floor 4, Queens House 29 ST.Vincent Place GLASGOW G1 2DT GRANDE BRETAGNE 09/646796

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

1 2, 05, 00

Applicant's or agent's file reference koa.130.pct

International application No.

PCT/GB99/00927

International filing date (day/month/year)

24/03/1999

Priority date (day/month/year) 24/03/1998

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

...

Applicant

KORALA ASSOCIATES LIMITED et al.

- 1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
- 2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
- 3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

#### 4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/

Authorized officer

Garvey, R

European Patent Office D-80298 Munich

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# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY 9 6

#### **PCT**

NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

KENNEDY & CO. Station House 34 St. Enoch Square Glasgow G1 4DF ROYAUME-UNI

RECEIVED ; 2 OCT 1999

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

30 September 1999 (30.09.99) ...

Applicant's or agent's file reference

koa.130.pct

International application No.

PCT/GB99/00927

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International filing date (day/month/year)

24 March 1999 (24.03.99)

Priority date (day/month/year)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

24 March 1998 (24.03.98)

**Applicant** 

( :

KORALA ASSOCIATES LIMITED et al

1. Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has communicated, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this Notice:

1. Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has communicated, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this Notice:

AU,CN,EP,IL,JP,KP,KR,US

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present Notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

2. The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:

AE,AL,AM,AP,AT,AZ,BA,BB,BG,BR,BY,CA,CH,CU,CZ,DE,DK,EA,EE,ES,FI,GB,GD,GE,GH,GM,HR,HU,ID,IN,IS,KE,KG,KZ,LC,LK,LR,LS,LT,LU,LV,MD,MG,MK,MN,MW,MX,NO,NZ,OA,PL,PT,RO,RU,

SD,SE,SG,SI,SK,SL,TJ,TM,TR,TT,UA,UG,UZ,VN,YU,ZA,ZW
The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the applicant to furnish a copy of the international application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).

 Enclosed with this Notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on 30 September 1999 (30.09.99) under No. WO 99/49431

# REMINDER REGARDING CHAPTER II (Article 31(2)(a) and Rule 54.2)

If the applicant wishes to postpone entry into the national phase until 30 months (or later in some Offices) from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed with the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date.

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor the 19-month time limit.

Note that only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination.

# REMINDER REGARDING ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL PHASE (Article 22 or 39(1))

If the applicant wishes to proceed with the international application in the national phase, he must, within 20 months or 30 months, or later in some Offices, perform the acts referred to therein before each designated or elected Office.

For further important information on the time limits and acts to be performed for entering the national phase, see the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 (Notification of Receipt of Record Copy) and Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Authorized officer

J. Zahra

Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38

Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35



# opy for the designated Office (DO/US)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU **PCT** NOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING **KENNEDY & CO.** OF A CHANGE Floor 4, Queen's House 29 St Vincent Place (PCT Rule 92bis.1 and Glasgow G2 4DT Administrative Instructions, Section 422) **ROYAUME-UNI** Date of mailing (day/month/year) 20 October 1999 (20.10.99) Applicant's or agent's file reference IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION koa.130.pct International application No. International filing date (day/month/year) 24 March 1999 (24.03.99) PCT/GB99/00927 1. The following indications appeared on record concerning: X the agent the common representative the applicant the inventor State of Nationality State of Residence Name and Address KENNEDY & CO. Station House Telephone No. 34 St. Enoch Square 0141 226 6826 Glasgow G1 4DF United Kingdom Facsimile No. 0141 226 6838 Teleprinter No. 2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning: the address the nationality the residence the person the name State of Nationality State of Residence Name and Address KENNEDY & CO. Floor 4, Queen's House 29 St Vincent Place Telephone No. 0141 226 6826 Glasgow G2 4DT United Kingdom Facsimile No. 0141 226 6838 Teleprinter No. 3. Further observations, if necessary: 4. A copy of this notification has been sent to: the designated Offices concerned the receiving Office the International Searching Authority the elected Offices concerned other: the International Preliminary Examining Authority

> The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

**Authorized officer** 

Jocelyne Rey-Millet

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35 Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38



## From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

# **PCT**

#### **NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION**

(PCT Rule 61.2)

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents United States Patent and Trademark Office Box PCT Washington, D.C.20231 ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE

	E I / (10 o l (10 b / (I) L (11 d o L
Date of mailing (day/month/year) 17 November 1999 (17.11.99)	in its capacity as elected Office
International application No.	Applicant's or agent's file reference
PCT/GB99/00927	koa.130.pct
International filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)
24 March 1999 (24.03.99)	24 March 1998 (24.03.98)
Applicant	
KORALA, Aravinda	

X in the d	emand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
	18 October 1999 (18.10.99)
in a not	ce effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:
The election	X was
	was not .
made before t Rule 32.2(b).	he expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under
•	

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland **Authorized officer** 

C. Carrié

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

**PCT** 

09/646796

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	(Form PCT/ISA/2)	of Transmittal of International Search Report 20) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
koa.130.pct	ACTION	
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)
PCT/GB 99/00927	24/03/1999	24/03/1998
Applicant		
KORALA ASSOCIATES LIMITED	et al.	
This International Search Report has been according to Article 18. A copy is being tra	n prepared by this International Searching Auth ansmitted to the International Bureau.	nority and is transmitted to the applicant
This International Search Report consists  X  It is also accompanied by	of a total of sheets. a copy of each prior art document cited in this	report.
Basis of the report		
	international search was carried out on the bas ess otherwise indicated under this item.	sis of the international application in the
the international search w Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).	as carried out on the basis of a translation of the	ne international application furnished to this
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		ternational application, the international search
contained in the internatio	nal application in written form.	•
filed together with the inte	rnational application in computer readable form	n.
furnished subsequently to	this Authority in written form.	
furnished subsequently to	this Authority in computer readble form.	
	esequently furnished written sequence listing do s filed has been furnished.	oes not go beyond the disclosure in the
the statement that the info furnished	rmation recorded in computer readable form is	s identical to the written sequence listing has been
2. Certain claims were fou	nd unsearchable (See Box I).	
3. Unity of invention is lack	king (see Box II).	
4. With regard to the title,		
X the text is approved as su	bmitted by the applicant.	
the text has been establis	hed by this Authority to read as follows:	·
5. With regard to the <b>abstract,</b> X the text is approved as su the text has been establis within one month from the	bmitted by the applicant. hed, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authorit date of mailing of this international search rep	ty as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, ort, submit comments to this Authority.
6. The figure of the drawings to be publ	ished with the abstract is Figure No.	2
X as suggested by the appli	cant.	None of the figures.
because the applicant fail	ed to suggest a figure.	
because this figure better	characterizes the invention.	
<del></del>	<del></del>	

International Application No PCT/GB 99/00927

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 6 G07F19/00 G06F G06F17/60 G07F7/10 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 6 G07F Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Α WO 97 45796 A (BARCELOU) 1,2,19, 4 December 1997 (1997-12-04) 24,29, 30,47,52 page 2, line 6 - line 18 page 6, line 22 -page 7, line 6 page 7, line 24 -page 8, line 5; figures Α WO 97 10562 A (CYBERMARK, L.L.C.) 1,2,29, 20 March 1997 (1997-03-20) 30 page 6, line 2 - line 4 page 7, line 11 - line 18; figures 1,2,4 Α WO 97 05582 A (KEYCORP LIMITED) 1,29 13 February 1997 (1997-02-13) page 5, last paragraph -page 6, line 8
page 7, line 22 -page 9, line 9; figures 5,6,8,11 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. ° Special categories of cited documents : "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 4 October 1999 12/10/1999 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Neville, D Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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